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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S.D.A ..... Washington, D. C. .... September 24, 1953 ..... SS 130

## Crop Prospects Declined in August

A slight decrease in the volume of prospective all-crop production resulted from August growing conditions, which varied by areas from adverse to favorable. Prospects improved significantly for cotton, sorghum and peanuts, declined for corn, soybeans, and spring grains, and changed little for a large number of crops. Indications are for the third largest crop production of record.

## All-Crop Index Drops to 130

The index of all-crop production as of September 1 dropped to 130 percent of the 1923-32 base. This compares with 132 in August and in 1952 and the record 135.5 percent in 1948.

## Summary of September 1 Crop Prospects

Record crops — rice, cranberries, pecans

Large crops — corn, soybeans

Larger than average — winter wheat, flaxseed, cotton, hay, tobacco, sugarcane, sugar beets, cherries

Nearly average — spring wheat, dry beans, pears, grapes, apricots

Below average — oats, barley, rye, sorghum grain, dry peas, peanuts, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, broomcorn, hops, apples, peaches.

## Corn Prospects Decline: Crop Still Above Average

The Nation's corn production prospect dropped 114 million bushels during August, making it 3.2 billion bushels as of September 1. This would be 3 percent or 91 million bushels smaller than last year, but 6 percent larger than average. Chief damage occurred in the southern part of the Corn Belt and bordering States in the South Central group.

## 1953 Wheat Crop 7% Above Average

Total wheat production is estimated at 1,169 million bushels, a drop of 33.5 million bushels from the August 1 estimate. The 1953 crop is 9 percent smaller than the 1952 crop but 7 percent larger than the average. The change in the all wheat estimate from a month earlier is due to a reduction in spring wheat which declined 33.5 million bushels or 10 percent from the August 1 forecast. The durum wheat crop is estimated at two-thirds of last year's small crop and only three-eighths of the average production.

## Feed Grains Ample; Hay Crop Down; Pastures Poor

Feed grain production of over 118 million tons is now in prospect. Although the tonnage is less than in 5 of the last 7 years, it is larger than that usually consumed in a season, and with the large carryovers will provide an ample supply for livestock to be fed.

The hay crop will be nearly a million tons smaller than indicated on August 1, but the 104½ million tons is among

the larger hay crops. It contains a near-record production of alfalfa and is mostly of good quality. The drought areas will be short in supply again.

Pastures are furnishing poor grazing rather generally. The condition of 63 percent is, with the exception of most years in the 1930-36 drought period, lowest of record for September 1. Pastures were fair to good in the northernmost States from Michigan to Montana and in most of the West, and poorest in the drought areas — one centering in Missouri, the other the Virginia-Carolina area.

Western ranges improved slightly during August with cool weather and good rains, but are still only poor to fair in large sections and very poor in drought areas.

## Cotton Crop Improved During August

A 1953 cotton crop of 15,159,000 bales is forecast. This is 554,000 bales, or 3.8 percent, above the August 1 forecast. The 1952 crop was 15,136,000 bales and the 10-year average was 12,215,000 bales. During August, production prospects improved in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Georgia, Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico, more than offsetting reductions in Missouri, Tennessee, Alabama, and Florida.

## Oilseed Tonnage A Fifth Above Average

Oilseed tonnage will be virtually the same as in 1952 and a fifth above average. The soybean crop is about 27 percent above average, the probable outturn of cotton seed is 25 percent above average, and the flaxseed crop is 2 percent above average. The peanut crop will be about two-thirds of average.

Parity Prices for Farm Products  
and Actual Prices Received

Commodity and Unit	Actual Price		Parity Price
	July 15, 1953	Aug. 15, 1953	Aug. 15, 1953
Wheat, bu. .... dol.	1.87	1.86	2.45
Corn, bu. .... dol.	1.47	1.48	1.78
Peanuts, lb. .... ct.	11.1	11.1	13.3
Cotton, lb. 1/..... ct.	31.87	32.77	34.35
Potatoes, bu. .... dol.	.955	.914	1.59
Hogs, 100 lb. .... dol.	24.20	23.60	20.20
Beef cattle, 100 lb. .... dol.	17.30	16.30	21.00
Calves, 100 lb. .... dol.	17.00	16.70	23.30
Lambs, 100 lb. .... dol.	21.90	20.10	22.80
Butterfat, lb. .... ct.	64.8	64.7	74.2
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. .... dol.	4.06	2/ 4.22	4.67
Chickens, live, lb. .... ct.	26.1	25.5	30.6
Eggs, doz. .... ct.	47.7	50.2	3/ 47.7

1/ American upland cotton.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Transitional parity.



## Fruits and Nuts

Deciduous fruit prospects declined only slightly during August with smaller outturns of apples and peaches, little change in pears and grapes, but slightly more apricots indicated.

Tree nut production is expected to be 18 percent above average, but not much different from a year ago, as a record pecan crop and a large almond production offset smaller outturns of walnuts and filberts.

Citrus prospects for the 1953-54 crop are excellent in Florida, good in California, fair in Arizona, but poor in Texas.

## Vegetables

The total of all vegetables and melons for fresh market in 1953 is expected to exceed that of 1952 by about 5 percent.

Estimates of 9 vegetables for commercial processing indicate a prospective tonnage about 9 percent less than in 1952, but 7 percent above average.

### August Milk Production Below Average

Milk production during August was about 2½ percent higher than in August 1952, mainly because of an increase in the number of milk cows, but was 1 percent below average for the month. Milk production per cow declined because of hot, dry weather. January-August milk production totaled 85.2 billion pounds, 4 billion more than in the same period of 1952, but nearly 1 billion pounds below the record established in 1945.

### Record Egg Production in August

Egg production set a new record for August, 5 percent more than last August and 12 percent above average. The rate of lay was record large in all parts of the country, with the number of layers about the same as last August, and only 1 percent below average. Egg-feed, turkey-feed, and farm chicken-feed price relationships were all more favorable for producers than a year ago.

### August Farm Employment up Half Million From July

About a half million more persons were at work on farms in late August than a month earlier. All of the increase was in family workers, as somewhat fewer hired workers were employed. Farm employment totaled 11,283,000, compared with 11,428,000 in late August 1952. Farm operators and their hired workers were working about the same number of hours per day this year as they were a year ago.

### Farm Real Estate Values Decline

Farm real estate values as of July 1 were 2 percent below March and 4 percent below a year earlier, but were 24 percent above the 1947-49 pre-Korea period. Values this July were moderately below a year earlier in all regions except in New England (unchanged) and the South Atlantic (up 1 percent).

Index—revised series  
(1947-49 = 100)

1952: July	129.2
1953: March	126.2
July	124.4

## Parity Ratio Unchanged at 93

The index of prices received by farmers declined 1 point (0.4 of 1 percent) from mid-July to mid-August. At 258 percent of the 1910-14 average, the index was 13 percent lower than the 295 for August 1952.

The parity index (prices paid, interest, taxes and wage rates) remained unchanged from a month earlier at 278 percent of its 1910-14 average. Prices of commodities in the index averaged a little higher in mid-August, but interest, taxes, and wage rates held steady at July levels. Prices of family living items advanced to equal the all-time high of the summer of 1952, but prices of items used in farm production declined.

Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers  
Index Numbers, 1910-14=100

Item	Aug. 1952	July 1953	Aug. 1953
Prices received by farmers ....	295	259	258
Crops.....	272	237	237
Food grains .....	236	218	215
Feed grains and hay .....	233	197	198
Tobacco .....	436	426	430
Cotton .....	319	269	277
Fruit .....	206	207	205
Truck crops.....	229	216	221
Oil-bearing crops.....	310	268	262
Livestock and products .....	316	280	276
Meat animals .....	372	318	305
Dairy products .....	295	261	267
Poultry and eggs .....	225	223	230
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities .....	274	261	262
Commodities used in living	273	271	273
Commodities used in			
production .....	274	250	249
All commodities, interest,			
taxes, and wage rates .....	287	278	278
Parity ratio (prices rec'd to			
prices paid by farmers) .....	103	93	93

## Current Indexes for Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	August 1953
Prices received by farmers .....	1910-14=100	258
Prices paid by farmers, interest,		
taxes and wage rates .....	1910-14=100	278
Parity ratio.....	1910-14=100	93
Farm wage rates .....	1910-14=100	1/ 514
Wholesale prices of food .....	1947-49=100	I/ 105
Retail prices of food.....	1947-49=100	I/ 114
Weekly factory earnings .....	1947-49=100	I/ 150
Production Comparisons	Jan.-Aug. 1952	Jan.-Aug. 1953
Milk, (bil. lb.) .....	81.0	85.2
Eggs, (bil.) .....	43.0	43.1
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	2/ 3,914	2/ 5,190
Lamb & Mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.) ....	2/ 319	2/ 364
Pork & lard, (mil. lb.) .....	2/ 6,698	2/ 5,669
All meats, (dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	2/ 11,243	2/ 11,665

1/ July figures.

2/ January-July under Federal inspection.

## CURRENT ESTIMATES

## Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost 1/	Farm value 2/	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1952 average .....	\$1,028	\$481	\$547	47%
1952 - July .....	1,042	490	552	47
1953 - June .....	1,010	448	562	44
July .....	1,011	464	547	46

1/ Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

2/ Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

## U. S. Farm Output, Indicated 1953 with Comparison (Index Numbers, 1935-39 = 100)

Item	1935-39	1948-52	1952	Indicated 1953 1/
Total farm output .....	100	140	144	143
Livestock production 2/ .....	100	139	146	146
Crop production 3/ .....	100	133	134	132
Farm-produced power 4/ .....	100	50	41	37

1/ Indications for 1953 based chiefly on the September 1953 report of the Crop Reporting Board.

2/ Dairy products, poultry products, meat animals, wool and mohair.

This index measures "gross" livestock production, i. e., feed and pasture consumed as well as product added in converting feed and pasture into livestock and livestock products.

3/ All crop production including production of feed for farm horses and mules.

4/ Not included in total farm output. Farm-produced power production includes the feed and pasture consumed by horses and mules, and the product added in converting this feed and pasture into animal power.

## Cash Receipts from Farming, United States 1/

Source	July 1953 Mil. dol.	Aug. 1953 2/ Mil. dol.
Farm marketings and CCC loans 3/ .....	2,428	2,700
Livestock and products .....	1,377	1,400
Meat animals .....	667	
Dairy products .....	386	
Poultry and eggs .....	300	
Other .....	24	
Crops .....	1,051	1,300
Food grains .....	368	
Feed crops .....	146	
Cotton (lint and seed) .....	51	
Oil-bearing crops .....	12	
Tobacco .....	68	
Vegetables .....	190	
Fruits and tree nuts .....	154	
Other .....	62	
Government payments .....	14	
Total cash receipts .....	2,442	

1/ For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

## Cash Receipts from Farm Marketings, by States, July 1953 1/2/

State and Region	Livestock and products \$ Thous.	Crops \$ Thous.	Total \$ Thous.
Maine .....	9,791	3,820	13,611
New Hampshire .....	5,259	739	5,998
Vermont .....	7,847	666	8,513
Massachusetts .....	11,809	3,457	15,266
Rhode Island .....	1,479	320	1,799
Connecticut .....	10,559	1,596	12,155
New York .....	49,332	19,278	68,610
New Jersey .....	18,886	21,824	40,710
Pennsylvania .....	51,932	17,609	69,541
North Atlantic .....	166,894	69,309	236,203
Ohio .....	55,684	53,655	109,339
Indiana .....	56,579	54,150	110,729
Illinois .....	88,713	101,391	190,104
Michigan .....	36,587	34,059	70,646
Wisconsin .....	74,745	15,066	89,811
East North Central .....	312,308	258,321	570,629
Minnesota .....	67,819	15,274	83,093
Iowa .....	129,381	16,246	145,627
Missouri .....	61,836	38,707	100,543
North Dakota .....	11,265	7,761	19,026
South Dakota .....	27,840	5,460	33,300
Nebraska .....	60,353	26,441	86,794
Kansas .....	43,376	82,636	126,012
West North Central .....	401,870	192,525	594,395
Delaware .....	9,266	5,429	14,695
Maryland .....	17,417	19,867	37,284
Virginia .....	23,774	12,670	36,444
West Virginia .....	8,964	2,044	11,008
North Carolina .....	18,501	11,425	29,926
South Carolina .....	7,397	16,804	24,201
Georgia .....	19,659	66,365	86,024
Florida .....	11,331	18,226	29,557
South Atlantic .....	116,309	152,830	269,139
Kentucky .....	27,571	7,168	34,739
Tennessee .....	22,353	9,098	31,451
Alabama .....	13,150	6,384	19,534
Mississippi .....	13,344	5,561	18,905
Arkansas .....	18,022	9,034	27,056
Louisiana .....	8,508	2,362	10,870
Oklahoma .....	27,430	32,736	60,166
Texas .....	70,536	74,882	145,418
South Central .....	200,914	147,225	348,139
Montana .....	12,352	4,644	16,996
Idaho .....	12,759	5,701	18,460
Wyoming .....	4,814	842	5,656
Colorado .....	20,626	9,179	29,805
New Mexico .....	4,835	1,615	6,450
Arizona .....	5,137	10,544	15,681
Utah .....	6,933	4,334	11,267
Nevada .....	1,464	307	1,771
Washington .....	15,764	22,711	38,475
Oregon .....	12,540	15,182	27,722
California .....	81,727	155,224	236,951
Western Region .....	178,951	230,283	409,234
United States .....	1,377,246	1,050,493	2,427,739

1/ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month, minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month.

2/ For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

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